



November 2005

Dear Tobacco Prevention Partner:

As you know, effective December 8, 2005, smoking is prohibited in indoor public places and places of employment. This major advancement in public health policy is the final step in making all indoor places smoke-free and will save lives by preventing exposure to deadly secondhand smoke.

To support you in local education and outreach efforts targeting media, business owners and the public, we have designed a community tool kit with sample templates, key messages, fact, and tip sheets. These generic tools are designed be tailored to individual health jurisdiction needs.

The tool kit is available on the contractor resources Web site and on a CD-ROM for your convenience. You can view the virtual tool kit at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco/contractors/SHSCAP/whatsnew.htm or request an additional CD-ROM copy of the tool kit by sending an e-mail to your contract manager.

To further support implementation activities, we recently sent out a retailer education mailing on behalf of local health jurisdictions. The mailing aims to assist restaurants, bars, and taverns in going smoke-free by providing, a "No Smoking" window sticker, two "No Smoking" signs, and an informational brochure. We created a radio ad that will be aired throughout Washington from Dec. 12 to Jan. 29 to help educate the public about the new law. Finally, we will provide the public and business owners with a statewide toll-free information line (877-INFO-901) and a Web-based violation reporting page on www.secondhandsmokesyou.com.

Evidence from other states shows high compliance rates when businesses and the public are well-informed about new smoke-free policies. I look forward to working together to facilitate a smooth execution of the law.

Thank you for your hard work and extra effort in the implementation of I-901.

Sincerely,

Terry Reid Program Manager Tobacco Prevention and Control Program